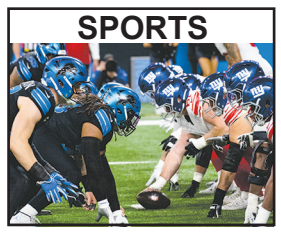
COMMUNITY

Page 7 – Detroit Filmmaker Diego Cruz - Part 3 of 3

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1, Oldest, Largest and Only Bilingual Hispanic News • Free! ¡Gratis! • Vol. 37, #4 • **November 26, 2025**

SPORTS



Page 10 – Lions beat Giants in OT, 34-27

Ganamos! El viaje de la familia Arce de la persecución a la libertad

Una victoria de asilo: la esperanza, el valor y la comunidad importan. Un mensaje de Acción Gracias.

En 2018, Nicaragua cayó en la agitación cuando las protestas pacíficas a favor de la democracia fueron enfrentadas con violencia gubernamental. Entre quienes tuvieron el valor de alzar su voz estuvo la familia Arce, pequeños empresarios de Managua que apoyaron a los estudiantes universitarios durante las manifestaciones proporcionando comida, primeros auxilios y esperanza en medio de la represión.

Su compromiso pacífico tuvo un costo alto. La familia perdió su fuente de ingresos y algunos seres queridos fueron perseguidos e incluso asesinados por sus actividades prodemocráticas. Grupos

Continúa en la pág. 8

Reprinted with permission from the Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center

Pictured at left, Jose Dávila, SWIRC Senior Paralegal; center, Jose Arce and family, far right, Kevin Piecuch, SWIRC Executive Director

We Won! The Arce Family's Journey From Fear to Freedom

An asylum victory—hope, courage, and community matter. A Thanksgiving message.

In 2018, Nicaragua descended into turmoil as peaceful protests for democracy were met with government violence. Among those who courageously stood up for change was the Arce family, small business owners from Managua who supported university students during the demonstrations by providing food, first aid, and hope amid repression.

Their peaceful involvement came at a heavy cost. The family lost their livelihood, and relatives of their loved ones were targeted and even killed because of their pro-democracy activities. Government-backed paramilitary groups began to

Contined on p. 9

Miss Mexico Wins Miss Universe 2025 After Week Marked by Tension

By Michael D. Gutierrez

In Bangkok, with confetti falling and cameras flashing, Mexico's Fátima Bosch Fernández was crowned Miss Universe 2025 last Thursday, November 20. Bosch, a 25-year-old fashion designer from Tabasco, told CNN en Espanol she hopes to be remembered for changing "the prototype" of what a Miss Universe can be. But behind the celebration, a surprising confrontation from earlier in the competition had already made her one of the most talked-about contestants this year.

Fátima Bosch of Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico. Photo courtesy missuniverse.com

During a livestreamed meeting, Thai national director Nawat Itsaragrisil scolded Bosch for allegedly missing a promotional event. The Independent reported that he called her a "dummy" during the exchange, prompting Bosch to stand her ground and respond, "I have a voice. You are not respecting me as a woman." The clip spread quickly and reshaped public opinion long before the competition's awards night.

Coverage from BBC News points out that the moment triggered an unusual show of solidarity backstage. Reigning Miss Universe Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark quietly gathered her belongings and walked out beside Bosch, later telling reporters that "to trash another girl is beyond disrespectful."

These flashes of tension didn't dominate the competition, but they did underscore long-standing questions about the balance between pageant professionalism and the demanding promotional work contestants are expected to perform. Still, Bosch did not let the incident define her week. She stayed focused, offering only brief comments and avoiding the spiral of commentary that often swamps Miss Universe in the digital era.

There were other distractions as well. As reported by The Daily Beast, former judge Omar Harfouch alleged he was pressured to support Bosch, a claim the Miss Universe Organization flatly denied, saying the accusations misrepresented how judging works. The story created some noise online, but it ultimately did little to shift the outcome or overshadow the coronation.

What remained front and center was the win itself. According to El Pais, Bosch's triumph landed at a symbolic moment for Mexico, arriving the same year the country inaugurated its first woman president, Claudia Sheinbaum, who publicly praised Bosch for defending herself with dignity. For many viewers across the U.S. Latino community, Bosch's composure – especially when tested earlier in the week – made her victory feel earned on more than technical grounds.

By the time she lifted the crown and repeated her desire to "change the prototype," the message resonated as both a celebration and a gentle challenge. In a space built on spectacle and tradition, Bosch demonstrated that the person wearing the crown still helps shape what the crown represents.

Fátima Bosch wins Miss Universe 2025. Photo courtesy missuniverse.com

2 Community
Coffee Alo

3 Business
Mexicantown Main Street

4 Government
Detroit City Council meets in Southwest Detroit

4 Music and Film Arts
Sound Engineer Talks Live Productions in Detroit

5 Immigration
Countering ICE family separation policies

7 Music and Film Arts
Diego Cruz, part 3 of 3

10 Sports
Lions beat Giants in OT, 34-27

12 Classifieds

13 Editorial
"The Rot at the Top" by Robert Reich

14 World Cultures
Guatemala - The Burning of the Devil

Brewing Community:

Coffee With Alo celebrates one year of Sisterhood and Belonging

Story and photos by Juanita Zuniga

"You know what I always say, there's nothing like Girlhood, Yapping, and laughing," said Alondra Alvarez, founder of Coffee With Alo.

Smiles, laughs, and friendship stretched across the twenty-something faces that filled the front room of Mezcal Mexican Restaurant in Midtown to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the community building-coffee centered meet-ups that have connected young women--mostly latinas--across Metro Detroit.

For those of you who don't know Alondra Alvarez she is a native Southwest Detroiter. She is an influencer, who social media-lites might recognize her from her TikTok presence as @justcallmeAlo or her deeply rooted involvement to community through education as a previous education interventionist for Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD). Coming from a background of family businesses like Alvarez's Party Store (which her father runs) and Cafecito Alvarez (which is her sister Ana's mobile coffee business) community means a lot to Alvarez.

"I started this a year ago, and it was just an idea to bring women together. I did a lot of content that was coffee-focused, and in my comments I kept seeing people say, 'I want to go there,' or 'I never have anyone to get coffee with', said Alvarez. "That got me thinking.. I realized adulthood can be lonely. So I wanted to create a space for people to connect."

And it worked.

"I moved from California to Michigan about a year ago. I really wanted to find community — girlhood, adult friends — but I didn't know where to start. And right when I was thinking about that, Alo showed up on my TikTok feed. That felt like a sign," said Blanca Diaz, from Macomb County.

For Diaz, Coffee With Alo was her first introduction to Michigan and for her it has made her more optimistic about the world.

With Alvarez's big leap into looking for community, she couldn't begin to fathom how fast a year has come and gone but more importantly how much her meets-up have been a third place for women, from Detroit to Macomb to Dearborn to Taylor.

From the first meet-up only bringing in six people to more recently 16 and now 20+ in attendance to celebrate one-year.. These coffee meet-ups have been nothing short of empowering.

"I'm definitely a more anxious person, so this has tested my ability to put myself out there. Coming to these events helped me expand my social skills, start conversations, and meet new people. Plus, there's unity in being Latino — it's something beautiful. Especially today, it's important to have that reminder," said Ivanna Ortega.

And what better way to connect than over cafecito, right?

"Coffee is culturally relevant for us — in the Latino community we bond over café. My sister has a coffee business, and we drink coffee every day. Some women who come have kids — and while cocktails can be fun, not everyone drinks. But everyone can have coffee,' said Alvarez .

A big part of Coffee With Alo is of course building community but that includes bridging the gap between community and small businesses. Connecting people to new and old businesses that are expanding all over the Metro-Detroit Area. Alvarez makes it a part of each event to host at a different coffee house or cafe so that they may receive exposure and the return from businesses have been plentiful.

For her one-year anniversary event, businesses she's worked with, and some who love her mission, donated prizes for games and raffles that were played, services, and supported hosting. The list goes as follows:

- Mezcal Mexican Restaurant
- D'lola Skin and Wellness
- Cafecito Alvarez
- K & D pastries
- Pine Coast cafe
- The Gems by Ana
- Adriana Alvarez beauty
- Qazzaz coffee

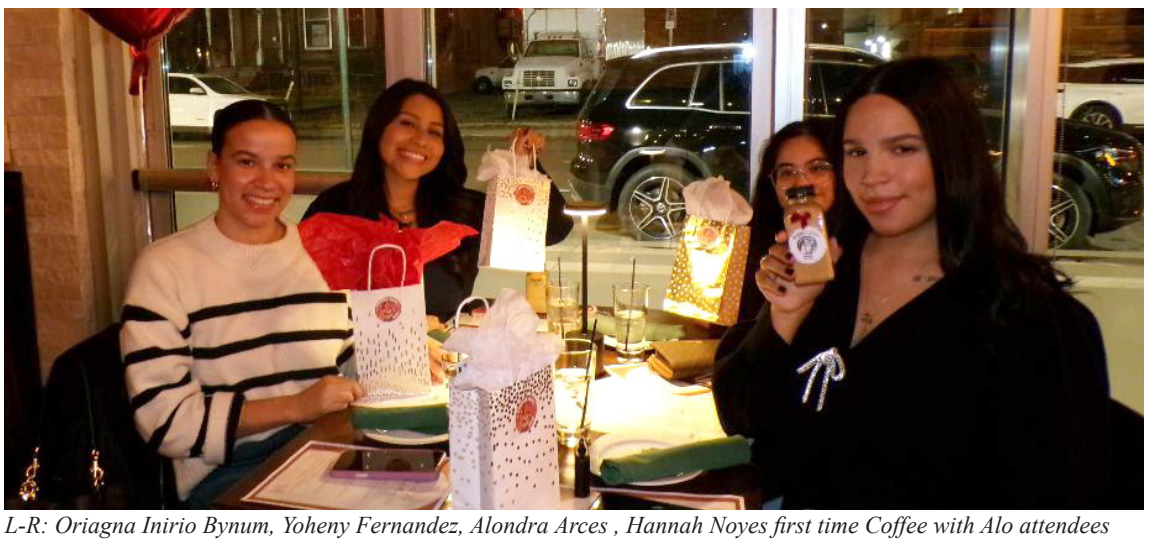
Coffee With Alo will continue to build community and build bridges across Metro-Detroit. So, if you're looking for a place to be authentically yourself and want to branch out of your comfort zone this might just be for you.

Juanita Zuniga is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and English. She was born and raised in SW Detroit and still resides there today. She is passionate about her community and hopes to serve it through writing. In her spare time. Juanita is a Latin history and music enthusiast. She is also a Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, and Cancer Rising.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

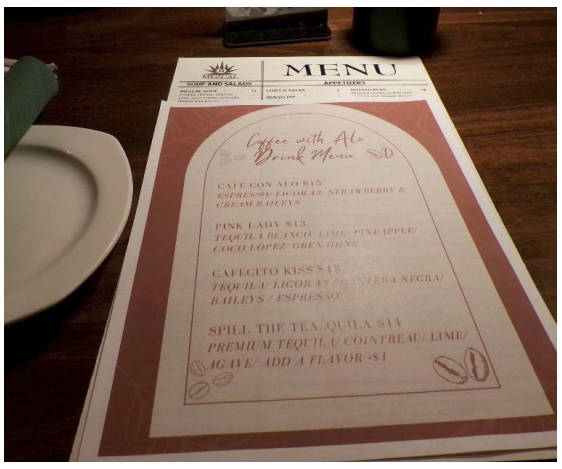
Alondra Alvarez stands with her bouquet of Congratulatory flowers at Coffee With Alo Celebration

Ana Alvarez led the young women at Coffee with Alo in an interactive game



L-R: Oriagna Inirio Bynum, Yoheny Fernandez, Alondra Arces , Hannah Noyes first time Coffee with Alo attendees

Goodie Bags sponsored by local businesses in support of Coffee with Alo



Curated celebration menu at Mezcal for Coffee with Alo

Mexicantown Main Street Celebrates New Identity with Community Fiesta

By Michael D. Gutierrez | Photos by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

In the Taqueria El Rey parking lot on 23rd Street, Tammy Alfaro watched Ballet Folklorico Moyocoyani Izel's young dancers take their final bows. Alfaro, a third-generation business owner, saw a slice of Mexicantown's future honoring its rich cultural heritage. It's what she believes the SDBA's Mexicantown Main Street rebrand truly means for the city.

"That's what I came here for… to make it exciting for the next generation," Alfaro told the crowd at the November 22 launch event.

Her family's business, Honey Bee Market, will turn 70 next year. "There are so many businesses in Mexicantown that have been here for 50 years or more," Alfaro said. "I welcome all kinds of people to come invest in our area," she said. Her two daughters and son-in-law now represent the fourth generation at Honey Bee Market.

The rebrand celebration also drew partners like Sean Mann, CEO of Detroit City FC, whose soccer team is converting the former Southwest Detroit Hospital into a neighborhood stadium. Mann told the crowd he's lived two blocks away for 20 years and shared a memory from the pandemic when his youngest son cried because the family was leaving for vacation in Mexico. The child had broken down into tears not because he'd miss home, but because he'd miss visiting El Popo Market on Bagley.

"I've been a neighbor and a customer, and now I'm excited to be a partner of all the businesses and residents here," Mann said. He described his vision of match days bringing visitors down Bagley and Vernor to local restaurants and shops before games.

José Maldonado, Director of Mexicantown Main Street, thanked Mann for reaching out to connect with the community. "That's a good neighbor," Maldonado said.

Maldonado paused before his final speech and asked the crowd to breathe together. "We are a community, right? We just got a little bit of air that we have all shared," he told them.

That sense of community didn't happen by accident. In an interview after the event, Maldonado explained how the rebrand came together. "I connect once a week with all the businesses in the area. I go door by door," he said. "We actually have a great Whatsapp group with all the business owners now that resulted from that." The surveys asked business owners how change could happen without leading to gentrification, including questions around the colors and images that would best represent them.

Maldonado came to Detroit from Ecuador ten years ago to work for Google, having spent time in Bolivia and Peru, before starting his own marketing agency. When the SDBA, his first client five years ago, offered him the chance to develop the rebrand from within, he saw it as a way to connect with his community.

"I took it back as a philanthropy moment, to be honest with you. But then I got closer and proud of who I am, of what we bring to Detroit," Maldonado said.

The rebrand was funded by $250,000 from the Gordie Howe International Bridge project and $250,000 from Michigan Central. Maldonado secured the funding through his first-ever grant application, arguing that bridge construction had impacted local businesses. The Southwest Detroit Business Association changed the name from "Mexicantown-Hubbard Communities Main Street Program" to simply "Mexicantown Main Street."

The new identity includes a website with a free community calendar, monthly newsletter, and business profiles. The program has already distributed $40,000 in facade improvement grants to four businesses. Local designer Eddi Gonzales created the visual identity, and Banner Sign Co created all 200 banners.

"I want people to know that they own it," Maldonado said. "I want people to know that they don't have to ask for permission to include the logo in their menus."

After the speeches, the free Rebrand Fiesta continued for hours with performances by Grupo Autónomo, Armando Vega, and sets from DJ Disco. Kids bounced in inflatable houses while families lined up at food trucks. For Maldonado, the outdoor festival was a promise that Mexicantown's heritage will be honored even as the neighborhood grows with new development.

"The heart of this rebrand project has always been our people," Maldonado said. "Every banner, every color, and every word reflects the passion of a community that continues to build its own future."

Business owners can visit mexicantownmainstreet.com to access resources and programs.

Sean Mann, president and CEO of Detroit City FC, speaks to the community during the Mexicantown Main Street Rebranding Celebration on Nov. 22, 2025.

Ballet Folklórico Moyocoyani Izel poses for a group photo after performing the Danza de la Taspana from Sinaloa, México

José Maldonado, Mexicantown Main Street Director, addresses the community during the Mexicantown Main Street Rebranding Celebration.

One of nearly 200 new streetlight banners depicting Mexicantown's historic buildings and landmarks hangs along the corridor. The banner artwork was designed by local designer Eddi Gonzales of Eye Breathe Design.

Mexicantown Main Street Celebra Nueva Identidad con una Fiesta Comunitaria

Por Michael D. Gutierrez | Photos por Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

En el estacionamiento de Taqueria El Rey, sobre la 23rd Street, Tammy Alfaro vio a las y los jóvenes de Ballet Folklorico Moyocoyani Izel hacer su última reverencia. Alfaro, dueña de negocio de tercera generación, sintió que ese momento reflejaba el futuro de Mexicantown y el valor de sus tradiciones. Para ella, eso es lo que representa el nuevo rebrand de SDBA's Mexicantown Main Street.

"Para eso vine… para que la próxima generación se emocione con esto," dijo Alfaro al público durante el evento del 22 de noviembre.

El negocio de su familia, Honey Bee Market, cumplirá 70 años el próximo año. "Hay muchos negocios en Mexicantown que tienen aquí 50 años o más," comentó Alfaro. "Me da gusto cuando llega gente nueva a invertir en nuestra área." Sus dos hijas y su yerno ya forman la cuarta generación en Honey Bee Market.

A la celebración también llegó Sean Mann, CEO de Detroit City FC. Su equipo de fútbol está cambiando el antiguo Southwest Detroit Hospital para convertirlo en un estadio para el barrio. Mann, quien ha vivido a dos cuadras por 20 años, compartió un recuerdo de la pandemia: su hijo menor lloró cuando se fueron de vacaciones a México. No lloró por la casa… lloró porque iba a extrañar ir a El Popo Market en Bagley.

"He sido vecino y cliente, y ahora me emociona ser parte del trabajo con los negocios y residentes de aquí," dijo Mann. Explicó que en los días de partido quiere ver a la gente caminar por Bagley y Vernor para comer y visitar las tiendas locales antes del juego.

José Maldonado, Director de Mexicantown Main Street, agradeció a Mann por buscar acercamiento con la comunidad. "Ese es un buen vecino," señaló Maldonado.

Antes de dar su último mensaje, Maldonado pidió al público respirar juntos. "Somos una comunidad, ¿sí? Acabamos de compartir un poquito de aire," comentó.

Ese sentido de unión no salió de la nada. En una entrevista después del evento, Maldonado explicó cómo se armó el rebrand. "Me reúno una vez por semana con los negocios del área. Voy puerta por puerta," dijo. "Ahora hasta tenemos un grupo de Whatsapp donde están casi todos los dueños." Las encuestas que hicieron preguntaban cómo se podían hacer cambios sin causar gentrificación, y también sobre los colores e imágenes que mejor representaban al barrio.

Maldonado llegó a Detroit desde Ecuador hace diez años para trabajar en Google. También vivió en Bolivia y Perú, y después abrió su propia agencia de marketing. Cuando la SDBA, su primer cliente, le ofreció dirigir el rebrand desde adentro, lo vio como una forma de conectar con la comunidad.

"Al principio lo tomé como un acto de apoyo, la verdad. Pero luego me sentí orgulloso de quién soy y de lo que aportamos a Detroit," dijo.

El rebrand recibió $250,000 del proyecto Gordie Howe International Bridge y $250,000 de Michigan Central. Maldonado consiguió ese dinero con su primera aplicación para una beca, explicando que la construcción del puente había afectado a los negocios. El Southwest Detroit Business Association cambió su nombre de "Mexicantown-Hubbard Communities Main Street Program" a simplemente "Mexicantown Main Street."

La nueva identidad incluye un website con un calendario comunitario gratuito, un boletín mensual y perfiles de negocios. El programa ya entregó $40,000 en apoyo para mejorar fachadas de cuatro negocios. El diseñador local Eddi Gonzales creó la imagen visual, y Banner Sign Co hizo los 200 banners.

"Quiero que la gente sepa que esto es suyo," dijo Maldonado. "Quiero que sepan que no necesitan pedir permiso para poner el logo en sus menús."

Después de los discursos, la Rebrand Fiesta siguió por varias horas con presentaciones de Grupo Autónomo, Armando Vega y música de DJ Disco. Las niñas y los niños brincaban en inflables mientras las familias hacían fila en los food trucks. Para Maldonado, el festival fue una señal de que la herencia de Mexicantown seguirá presente mientras el barrio crece con nuevos proyectos.

"El corazón de este rebrand siempre ha sido nuestra gente," dijo Maldonado. "Cada banner, cada color y cada palabra muestran la pasión de una comunidad que sigue construyendo su futuro."

Dueños de negocios pueden visitar mexicantownmainstreet.com para ver recursos y programas.

Southwest Detroit Hosts City Council Meeting at Patton Recreation Center

By Estefania Arellano-Bermudez
Photos provided by City of Detroit

District 6 and City Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero hosted last week's City Council Meeting at Patton Recreation Center on Tuesday, November 18. Designed to make city council meetings more accessible in a large city like Detroit, meetings like this bring city council to residents by having them in the neighborhoods.

The meeting began with introductions of city staff and representatives on site to settle residents' issues and complaints.

Councilmember for District 6 – Gabriela Santiago-Romero – presented a video showing her office's work and achievements over the past year. The video covered legislative wins, community engagement, and responses to local crises – such as the water main break that occurred in Southwest Detroit last February amid frigid temperatures and a stormy political climate.

"We stay busy. We've done a lot of really great work and I'm just so grateful for the opportunity to serve the city and this neighborhood that I love," Santiago-Romero said in the video.

In attendance were Councilmembers Angela Whitfield Calloway, Scott Benson, Mary Waters, James Tate, Gabriela Santiago-Romero, Latisha Johnson and Coleman Young II. Roz Kimbrough represented the City Clerk's office. Council President Pro-Tem James Tate ran the meeting, which was held in person and through zoom.

Of note, were the two recipients of the Spirit of Detroit Award: Hot Sam's Detroit, which has been around since 1921 and Ballet Folklorico Moyocoyani Izel, an internationally recognized dance troupe run by Maria and Jaime Carrillo.

"Everything we do is rooted in love. Love for our community, love for each other, love for our culture, and essentially just stay rooted in love and everything else blossoms," Maria Carrillo said upon receiving the award on behalf of the dance troupe.

Residents raised a wide range of grievances and concerns. Adam Barrett from Detroiters For Justice, criticized the city for providing a $41.6 million subsidy for "a billionaire's $50 million project," noting that the tax capture would divert funds from essential services like the local library, which was in severe disrepair. Barrett was referring to the proposed WNBA practice facility and headquarters for the team which has been awarded to Detroit.

"Why should we subsidize shiny new stadiums when we haven't even done right by our essential institutions in a city where public schools no longer have libraries because of the emergency manager," Barret said at Tuesday's meeting. "Libraries and schools are among the things that fight poverty."

Another vital topic of discussion was the need for a truck ordinance. This matter was brought up multiple times. Josh Medina, community organizer with Urban Neighborhood Initiatives, spoke about the problems caused by two trucking businesses operating in the middle of a residential neighborhood in Springwells, citing noise, pollution, and safety concerns especially with a new school planned for the area.

"We can work together with the residents and the council to find a solution that's going to keep our community safe and be a place where people want to live," Medina said.

Spirit of Detroit Award recipients Maria and Jaime Carrillo of Ballet Folklorico Moyocoyani Izel, with Gabriela Santiago-Romero (right)

Spirit of Detroit Award recipient Ballet Folklorico Moyocotani Izel group photo

Comments at the community meeting surfaced recurring tensions between new development projects and the needs and quality of life of long-term residents.

Paul Chenault, argued for equitable investment in legacy residents beyond the city's development hotspots.

"I hope that [city council] can all work together to help the city continue to blossom and thrive and not only invite new people to the city to live, but also retain the residents that the city already has," Chenault said.

******

Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit's Neighborhood Reporting Lab.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Sound Engineer Pulls Curtain Back on Getting Started in Live Productions

By Michael D. Gutierrez

People interested in working behind the scenes in Detroit's entertainment industry learned about real job opportunities at a Michigan Production Alliance and Michigan Film Industry Association event held at Candela Detroit last Thursday, November 20th. Jason Rogers has worked as a sound engineer in Detroit for 25 years and explained how to break into the business, and what makes Detroit crews special.

Rogers works at some of Detroit's biggest venues, including Little Caesars Arena and Fox Theatre, and is the Front-of-House Sound Engineer at the Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre. He hears the same feedback from touring professionals again and again—they love working with Detroit crews. "Touring engineers are telling us they love our workers. Detroit has one of the best crews around," Rogers said. At LCA, crews can unload 27 trucks of concert gear in five hours. Other cities need more than 20 hours for the same work.

The presentation gave attendees specific ways to get started in production work, with Rogers saying that Christian churches offer some of the best training for young people learning audio engineering. Other options include working at local venues and getting certified online through programs like Dante digital audio networking. "We're always short staffed, always looking for people," Rogers explained, pointing out that about 90 percent of people he's trained at Aretha Franklin now work on tours with famous artists.

Detroit's entertainment scene is growing, too, which is creating job openings for trained crew members, but it's not work that can be learned overnight. Rogers explained that it takes around five years before someone feels confident enough to handle sound for a show on their own. During those learning years, workers memorize which cables connect different gear, practice fixing problems on the spot, and learn why the Fox Theatre might sound nothing like LCA.

As industry equipment gets more sophisticated, crew members have to train continuously to stay competitive. Rogers had spent nine hours in Chicago learning a new system worth over $100,000 just one day before the MPA-MIFIA event. "The in-ear monitors now are going to be 3D. They're going to make it so the snare drum is going to be here, moving around with the stage," Rogers explained. "All this technology, which is pretty amazing, is all coming up."

The Michigan Production Alliance and Michigan Film Industry Association host free training events throughout the year. Their next gathering is the 36th Annual Freelancers Ball on December 18 at Fifth Avenue in Royal Oak. Anyone interested can find MPA on social media or Groups.io to learn about training opportunities and jobs in Michigan's growing entertainment industry.

******

Michael D. Gutierrez is the Digital Content Manager for EL CENTRAL Hispanic News. He is a screenwriter and filmmaker with a decade of experience in the television and film industry, contributing to projects including THE HOLDOVERS and LETHAL WEAPON on Fox. He is an active member of the Writers Guild of America-West and its Latino Writers Committee.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Michigan Leaders Sound Alarm on New Wave of Family Separations Under Trump Immigration Policies

By Amber Ogden. Photos by DPSCD

Michigan leaders, advocates, and caregivers are sounding an increasingly urgent alarm about a growing family-separation crisis unfolding not at the southern border, but right here in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. On Friday, Nov. 14, a coalition of attorneys, educators, and policymakers joined a press call to share what they are witnessing in a growing atmosphere of deep fear and instances of children in detention for extended stays. Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) intensified its enforcement actions linked directly to immigration policies implemented by the Trump Administration since January.

Hosted by the MIRC, the call included State Senator Stephanie Chang, representatives from Sen. Mary Cavanagh's office, the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, Kent School Services Network, and foster caregivers who have supported separated children in Michigan.

Jennifer Venegas, managing attorney at the Young Center, explained that while the era of dramatic border-station separations may have faded from national news cycles, the crisis has not ended; it has simply changed form.

"Family separation hasn't ended. It just looks different," Venegas said. "Today, it's happening quietly through internal enforcement actions that tear families apart right here in Michigan, not at the border, but in our own communities."

She also laid out troubling trends happening inside federal custody. In December 2024, a child remained in detention for an average of 35 days before being released to a legal sponsor. By March 2025, that number had tripled.

That means children are spending birthdays, holidays, and entire school semesters without seeing their families.

"You only get brief monitored calls with your mom," Venegas said.

"And she has no idea how to get you back."

Attorneys and advocates say the shift began the day President Donald Trump returned to office, when his Administration quickly dissolved longstanding protections that once prohibited immigration enforcement at "sensitive locations" such as schools, churches, and health clinics.

"On day one, we saw the end of the decades-long policy that limited enforcement in sensitive locations," said Molly Huffaker, supervising attorney at the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center.

"Children are children, regardless of their nationality, and our law and our values require us to act in their best interest."

Now, Huffaker said, parents are being urged to prepare for detention with grim practicality, such as signing temporary guardianship documents, arranging backup childcare, and organizing legal files, much as one might prepare a will.

The ramifications are immediate in schools, especially those serving large immigrant populations. Dr. Keenan King, executive director of Kent School Services Network, said fear is spreading faster than accurate information.

"Sometimes it's just a feeling," King said. "If you talk to your communities, they'll tell you, if they don't trust the systems, they're not going to send their babies to those spaces."

He described a continuing chain reaction of children staying home, absenteeism increasing, and students becoming vulnerable to punitive systems.

"Kids not going to school is bad for business. It's bad for our community and society, whether the fear is real or not," King said. "We've been on our heels since January trying to help our community navigate these situations."

The trauma of forced family separation leaves imprints not just by the numbers, but on children's bodies and minds.

"Lauren", to keep her identity private, is a former refugee foster mom in Michigan who has cared for approximately ten immigrant children who arrived alone, spoke candidly.

"We know firsthand the separation is horribly traumatizing," she said. "Government officials who are charged with keeping the country safe are instead terrorizing families, especially children."

She described children who arrive anxious and withdrawn, and yet astonishingly resilient. "Despite all these scary times, these children continue to be loving and funny and creative," Lauren said. "All children deserve safety."

Michigan lawmakers say they are working to enact state-level protections. State Senator Stephanie Chang stressed that protecting immigrant communities isn't just a moral imperative; it is essential for public safety.

"What's best for public safety for immigrant families is best for public safety for all of us," Chang said. "When law enforcement operates without clear identification and without oversight, it undermines democratic norms and community relationships."

Representing Sen. Mary Cavanagh, legislative director Grace Rowley highlighted Senate Bill 508, one of three proposed measures to re-establish protections in schools and health-care settings.

"These bills ensure the constitutional rights of all Michiganders are upheld," Rowley said, noting that more than 170 U.S. citizens have been mistakenly detained by immigration agents nationwide since March 2025.

That urgency is being echoed in Detroit. On November 11, the activist group Detroit People's Assembly mobilized parents, educators, and students to press the Detroit school district for stronger protections at a monthly Board of Education meeting.

Members addressed the board during public comment, urging immediate action rather than symbolic reassurance, and the group says Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) is falling short.

"The district is failing to adequately support and protect immigrant students, families, and staff," People's Assembly wrote this week on Instagram. "We deserve better!"

DPSCD Board members, from left, Bishop Corletta J. Vaughn, Ph.D., President and LaTrice McClendon, Vice President

A parent speaks during public comment at the DPSCD Board meeting on November 11

They are urging the district to stand up and strengthen its sanctuary policy by requiring mandatory staff training on immigrant rights, establishing clear protocols for interacting with law enforcement, and prohibiting the sharing of student information with immigration agencies unless a judicial warrant is presented.

Additionally, they want "clear and timely" communication to families when immigration-related incidents occur near schools.

For those on the front lines, educators, lawyers, and foster parents, the message is consistent: children are not political collateral.

The crisis unfolding in Michigan may not make national headlines, but for the families living through it, the fear is heavy and constant. Advocates warn that, without intervention, both in Lansing and within institutions like Detroit's public schools, the most vulnerable members of our communities will continue to pay the highest price.

******

Amber Ogden is a freelance writer born and raised in Detroit. She has published work in Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D, and Rachel Ray Every Day. She enjoys art and eating through the city in her free time.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Resources for Immigrants in Michigan
1 Know Your Rights
Find Michigan-specific information about your rights, how to prepare your family for enforcement, what to do if ICE comes to your door, and what to do after someone is arrested or detained.
bit.ly/MIRCKYR
2 Immigration Legal Services
If you are in need of immigration legal services, call us at 734-239-6863. If lines are busy, leave a message and we will return your call.
3 All detainees can call MIRC for free from detention
MIRC
michiganimmigrant.org

Recursos para Inmigrantes en Michigan
1 Conozca sus Derechos
Aquí encontrará información específica de Michigan sobre sus derechos, cómo preparar a su familia para la aplicación de la ley, qué hacer si ICE viene a su puerta y qué hacer después de que alguien sea arrestado o detenido.
bit.ly/MIRCKYR
2 Servicios legales de inmigración
Si necesita servicios legales de inmigración, llámenos al 734-239-6863. Si las líneas están ocupadas, deje un mensaje y le devolveremos la llamada.
3 Todos los detenidos pueden llamar a MIRC por gratis desde el centro de detención
MIRC
michiganimmigrant.org

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY | DETROIT, MICHIGAN | WWW.CURES.WAYNE.EDU

CURES
Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors

Air Monitoring

Community Driven Project

SEEKING MONITORING SITE PARTNERS!

We are seeking community sites to install air monitors in Detroit so we can understand more about emissions coming from industrial sites and polluting our air.

Getting involved is as easy as 1-2-3

1. Contact Deborah, Executive Director of Zero Waste Detroit @ **deborah@zerowastedetroit.org** or call us at 313-916-9387 to see if your location is in our study area for a sensor placement.
2. We'll tell you about our air monitors and talk about the best place to install it based on your recommendation
3. We'll provide regular updates about what the monitor is telling us about air pollution/ air quality activities and events so you can learn more and participate based on your interest and availability

Benefits: $100 gift card — Access to real time air quality information

This community driven project is being conducted with support from the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES) in partnership with:

HENRY FORD HEALTH · ZERO WASTE DETROIT · JustAir

$10,000 grants 50 recipients Apply now

Verizon is awarding $10,000 to 50 small businesses just like yours. To become eligible to apply, you just have to complete 2 Digital Ready courses or events by 12/10/2025 (and you might have already done this!). Will you be the next recipient? Good luck!

Apply now

Register and complete resources to access a $10,000 grant application.
To complement the hundreds of free resources on Digital Ready, we're awarding 50 small businesses with $10,000 grants.

Who can apply?
Owners of for-profit small businesses based in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or US Virgin Islands. Nonprofits are not eligible.

Applicants may apply for one business only and must be over the age of 18.

How to apply?
Complete any combination of two eligible courses or events between now and December 10, 2025 to unlock the application.

Submit the application by 11:59 PM (PST) on December 10, 2025.
Late applications will not be considered.

Register at www.digitalready.verizonwireless.com/grants

verizon LLSC

KEEP THE STORY GOING . . .

VOCES SOUTHWEST DETROIT HISTORY

Voces is a powerful oral history community initiative that celebrates the vibrant stories of Southwest Detroit.

You can suggest community members who you think should share their history for the Voces Oral History Project. Scan the QR code to submit a name!

Scan me

De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

PUEDE AYUDARLO CON EL PROCESO DE ASISTENCIA CON SUCESIONES

¿Se enfrenta a una ejecución hipotecaria y necesita ayuda para iniciar un proceso de sucesiones en el Tribunal de Sucesiones del Condado de Wayne porque una propiedad está a nombre de un familiar fallecido?

COMUNÍQUESE CON UNO DE NUESTROS SOCIOS COMUNITARIOS:

Michigan Legal Services: 313-964-4130
MILegalServices.org

United Community Housing Coalition: 313-725-4560
UCHCDetroit.org

Lakeshore Legal Aid: 888-783-8190
LakeshoreLegalAid.org

WAYNE COUNTY MICHIGAN TREASURER'S OFFICE — INTEGRITY RESPECT DIGNITY SOCIETY

www.Treasurer.WayneCounty.com
313-224-5990

¡Estamos aquí para ayudarle!

PART 3: Why Every Detroit Rapper Wants Diego Cruz Behind the Camera

The final installment of a three-part profile of Detroit filmmaker Diego Cruz and the work that made his name impossible to ignore

By Michael D. Gutierrez

In October 2019, Cruz's mentor, director Gerard Victor, told Cruz he'd maxed out in Detroit. Bigger opportunities existed elsewhere, and that "elsewhere" was New York City.

Cruz didn't believe it. "I was like, 'Nah, I still have more to do here. I haven't accomplished what I want with the artists here,'" Cruz says. "The music scene was picking up."

But Victor kept pushing, insisting the move would help Cruz's career progress in ways Detroit couldn't offer. Cruz started to consider it, not because he was entirely convinced, but because as long as he could still travel back and forth – just a drive or a quick flight whenever he needed to be home – the risk seemed manageable enough to try.

"It was 100% a career move," Cruz says.

Cruz films a model on the set of Icewear Vezzo's "REGULAR" music video, directed by Diego Cruz and Suave House Productions. Photo by Akhil Sesh, courtesy of Diego Cruz.

Once Cruz connected with a production company in New Jersey, the steady work came quickly, but the certainty that he belonged there never did. Detroit stayed on his mind, especially the clients whose trust he had earned and the atmosphere that had always fueled him.

Then COVID shut everything down. In most industries, it was a death sentence. But in Detroit's music video scene, it was business as usual. Artists kept shooting like nothing had changed, and Cruz found himself coming back more and more until the production company he was connected with started noticing he was doing his own thing as often as, if not more than, he was working with them. Eventually, they parted ways.

"No hard feelings," Cruz says. "But looking back, it was the best decision."

Free from the production company, Cruz threw everything into Detroit just as the city's music scene hit a critical mass. Industry eyes had finally focused on Detroit, and labels were asking who was coming next and which artists deserved deals. Cruz watched people he'd been filming for years sign with Empire Records as the Oakland-based label built out a massive Detroit roster. Motown had its moment, too. The work Cruz wanted was here, and the demand matched his ambition.

"I didn't even like the music coming out of New York at the time," Cruz admits. "I was still listening to Detroit artists. That's where my ears and my heart were."

The irony is that coming home opened doors everywhere else. The quality of work Cruz produced in Detroit caught attention beyond the city. Artists and crew members in Atlanta and LA started reaching out because they'd seen what he was doing in Detroit and wanted that same energy for their projects.

"Now I'm filming a lot in Atlanta and other cities, but that's only possible because of the quality of work I've been able to do here," Cruz says. "The content I created in Detroit made people elsewhere start paying attention."

He works regularly in LA now, in Atlanta, wherever the work takes him. But he always comes back, and he never stopped working with emerging Detroit artists who are still grinding and chasing the same dream he once chased.

"People can see me working in LA one day, and then the next day I'm back home shooting for someone who's still building," Cruz says. "I think that makes a difference for people. That gives them a boost."

At 38, Cruz thinks about legacy in concrete terms rather than abstract ones. He thinks about what will outlive him and how his work will be remembered once he's gone.

"Movies live forever," he says. "If a prominent filmmaker passes away today, people remember them through their work. I think about how I've contributed to the culture. Like, if I were to leave this Earth tomorrow, I know people couldn't say, 'He didn't do anything for the culture.' I did. I made my mark."

That mark goes beyond the videos he's made over the past decade. It's the example he's set as a kid from Southwest Detroit who proved you don't need to leave to make it, or as the cement worker armed with a camera who showed that you can compete at the highest level while staying rooted in your community and lifting up the people around you.

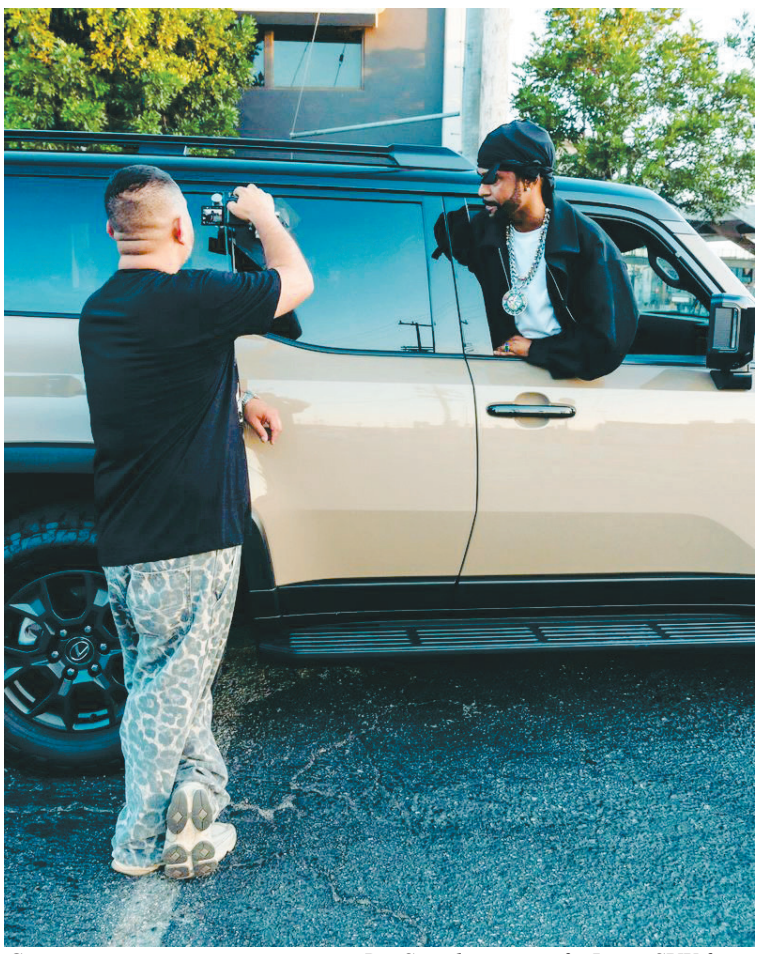
"That's the message I want to leave behind," Cruz says. "Anyone can do this. If you want to do it, don't be afraid. Just start."

He pauses, then smiles.

"And yo, I still need to shoot with Eminem. That's the only person from Detroit I haven't worked with yet."

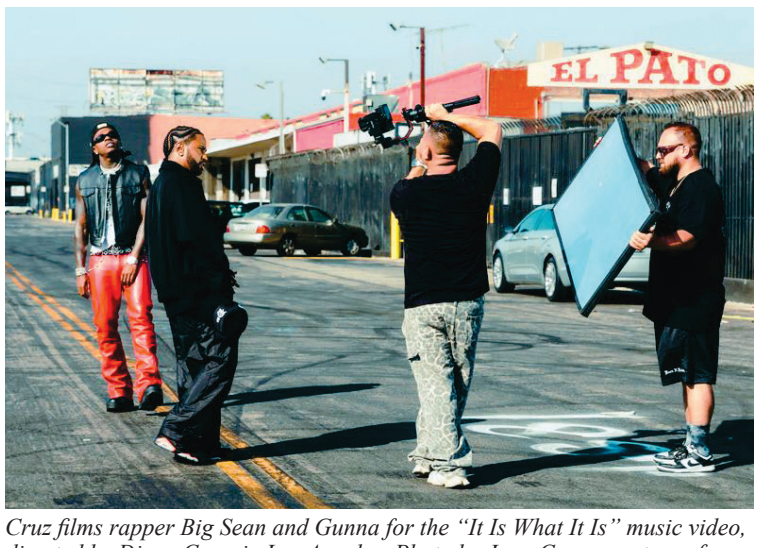
The dream is still fun. The work is still home. And Diego Cruz is exactly where he belongs.

Cruz films Detroit rapper Icewear Vezzo during the "REGULAR" music video, directed by Diego Cruz and Suave House Productions. Photo by Akhil Sesh, courtesy of Diego Cruz.



Cruz rigs a camera mount as rapper Big Sean leans out of a Lexus SUV for the "It Is What It Is" music video, directed by Diego Cruz, in Los Angeles. Photo by Juan Cruz, courtesy of Diego Cruz.

Cruz and crew members pose with Big Sean on the set of the "It Is What It Is" music video. Photo by Juan Cruz, courtesy of Diego Cruz.



Cruz films rapper Big Sean and Gunna for the "It Is What It Is" music video, directed by Diego Cruz, in Los Angeles. Photo by Juan Cruz, courtesy of Diego Cruz.

Michael D. Gutierrez is the Digital Content Manager for EL CENTRAL Hispanic News. He is a screenwriter and filmmaker with a decade of experience in the television and film industry, contributing to projects including THE HOLDOVERS and LETHAL WEAPON on Fox. He is an active member of the Writers Guild of America-West and its Latino Writers Committee.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

El Centro para Inmigrantes y Refugiados del Suroeste de Detroit Celebra 10 Años de Servicio y Más de 25,000 Clientes Atendidos

El Centro para Inmigrantes y Refugiados del Suroeste de Detroit (SWIRC) celebra su décimo aniversario este otoño, conmemorando una década de servicio dedicado a inmigrantes, refugiados y solicitantes de asilo en el sureste de Michigan. Desde su fundación en 2015, SWIRC se ha convertido en el mayor proveedor de servicios legales gratuitos y de bajo costo en el área de Detroit, con ubicaciones en el vecindario del Suroeste de Detroit, en el lado Este de Detroit y en Pontiac.

Durante la última década, SWIRC ha apoyado a más de 25,000 clientes—personas que acudieron buscando respuestas, justicia y sentido de pertenencia. Ya sea asistiendo a un padre que lucha por el futuro de su hijo, a un emprendedor que inicia un pequeño negocio, o a un cliente que recibe el alivio de la ciudadanía, cada historia ha dado forma a la misión de SWIRC de garantizar que la justicia no dependa de la cantidad de dinero que se tenga y que los inmigrantes sean bienvenidos en sus comunidades.

"Cada persona que cruza nuestras puertas lleva sueños y desafíos," dice el Director Ejecutivo Kevin Piecuch. "Haber atendido a 25,000 clientes desde 2015 significa 25,000 pasos hacia la justicia, la seguridad y el sentido de pertenencia. Estamos orgullosos de lo que se ha logrado, pero aún más entusiasmados con lo que viene.

Al celebrar su décimo aniversario, el Centro lanza nuevas iniciativas diseñadas para expandir su alcance, fortalecer las alianzas comunitarias e invitar a una participación más amplia en su misión.

Lanzamiento de la campaña 10 x 25k por el 10º Aniversario

Para impulsar su próxima década de impacto y celebrar los 25,000 clientes atendidos en 10 años, SWIRC ha lanzado una campaña de fin de año llamada "10 x 25k" para recaudar $250,000 antes del 31 de diciembre de 2025. Los fondos ampliarán los servicios legales gratuitos y de bajo costo para inmigrantes y refugiados en el sureste de Michigan. Las donaciones pueden hacerse en www.detimmigrantcenter.com/donate

Expansión de alianzas y servicios

SWIRC invita a empresas y socios comunitarios a unirse a su misión de ampliar el acceso a la justicia. A través de iniciativas colaborativas, el Centro continúa ampliando sus servicios legales—incluyendo inmigración, derecho familiar, empleo y asuntos testamentarios—para responder a las crecientes necesidades de la comunidad del sureste de Michigan.

Participación de voluntarios

El Centro sigue invitando a abogados, estudiantes de derecho, traductores e investigadores a unirse a su misión y garantizar que nadie sea rechazado por falta de recursos para pagar. Los voluntarios pueden inscribirse en www.detimmigrantcenter.com/volunteer

"A nuestros clientes, voluntarios, personal y simpatizantes—gracias por ser parte de este camino," agregó Piecuch. "Estamos ansiosos por las próximas 25,000 historias."

Acerca del Centro para Inmigrantes y Refugiados del Suroeste de Detroit (SWIRC)

Fundado en 2015, SWIRC es el centro más grande del sureste de Michigan que ofrece servicios legales gratuitos y de bajo costo a inmigrantes y refugiados—independientemente de sus recursos. Ubicado en el vecindario del Suroeste de Detroit, con centros legales adicionales en Pontiac y en el área Este de Detroit, SWIRC está comprometido con una visión del sureste de Michigan donde la justicia sea accesible para todos y los inmigrantes sean acogidos.

El Centro para Inmigrantes y Refugiados del Suroeste de Detroit es una organización exenta según la Sección 501(c)(3) del Código de Rentas Internas.

Dirección y contacto

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center
17375 Harper Ave., Suite 24124
Detroit, MI 48224
Phone: 313-288-9904
https://detimmigrantcenter.com

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center

Clientes que reciben servicios en El Centro para Inmigrantes y Refugiados del Suroeste de Detroit

Los cinco obstáculos más difíciles para los inmigrantes en Detroit y el apoyo que marca la diferencia

En Detroit y en todo el país, los inmigrantes se enfrentan a una dura realidad. En SWIRC, nuestra misión es apoyar y empoderar a las personas que hacen que nuestra ciudad sea vibrante. Nuestros clientes son quienes se esfuerzan por construir una nueva vida en medio de enormes desafíos. Estas son las cinco preocupaciones más apremiantes que los afectan a ellos y a sus familias este año:

1. Vivir bajo la amenaza de deportación

Recientemente, hemos presenciado un aumento en las detenciones y deportaciones, a veces incluso por pequeños problemas con el papeleo o errores administrativos. Nuestros clientes de SWIRC enfrentan la amenaza de deportación como una presencia constante. El miedo a ser separados de sus seres queridos o a perder la estabilidad pesa sobre miles de personas, haciendo que cada día sea incierto.

2. Pérdida de protecciones legales cruciales

Residentes de muchos años en Detroit con DACA, TPS o estatus de visa humanitaria están viendo cómo estos programas desaparecen o se reducen, a veces sin previo aviso. Para quienes llegaron aquí de niños o huyeron del peligro en el extranjero, esta incertidumbre afecta su educación, empleo y futuro día a día.

3. Escrutinio en el lugar de trabajo y pérdida del empleo

Las largas demoras en el USCIS para producir los Documentos de Autorización de Empleo (EAD) significa que muchos inmigrantes se enfrentan a la pérdida de su empleo porque su tarjeta actual está vencida. Para agravar los problemas, se ha producido un cambio reciente en la política que consideraba válidos los EAD vencidos para quienes habían solicitado nuevas tarjetas. Ya no es así. Las personas con EAD vencidos ya no pueden trabajar legalmente, aunque las demoras en la obtención de nuevas tarjetas estén fuera de su control. Este cambio de política tendrá consecuencias catastróficas para muchas familias de bajos ingresos.

4. Dificultad para acceder a servicios y beneficios

SWIRC ayuda regularmente a familias que evitan buscar atención médica, apoyo alimentario o vivienda, incluso cuando son elegibles, porque usar programas públicos podría poner en riesgo su estatus migratorio. La ley de "carga pública" ha llevado a decisiones desgarradoras entre las necesidades básicas y la supervivencia en EE. UU.

5. Esperando en filas interminables por justicia

El sistema judicial de inmigración está desbordado, convirtiendo meses en años para las familias que buscan protección, ciudadanía o simplemente reunirse. Los abogados de SWIRC continúan luchando por los habitantes de Detroit atrapados en este atraso, pero la frustración y el miedo aumentan cada día.

Esperanza y apoyo en el suroeste de Detroit

A pesar de estos obstáculos, la esperanza sigue floreciendo en SWIRC. Nuestro equipo, junto con voluntarios apasionados y aliados de la comunidad, acompaña a los inmigrantes en cada paso, brindándoles ayuda legal, orientación y un lugar donde ser escuchados. Nuestro trabajo es más esencial que nunca y juntos podemos construir un Detroit más acogedor.

Para quienes se preocupan por el futuro, sepan que SWIRC está aquí. Si usted o alguien que conoce necesita ayuda, contáctenos. Luchamos por su historia, sus derechos y su futuro. Porque todo inmigrante merece una oportunidad justa y un hogar seguro.

El viaje de la familia Arce de la persecución a la libertad

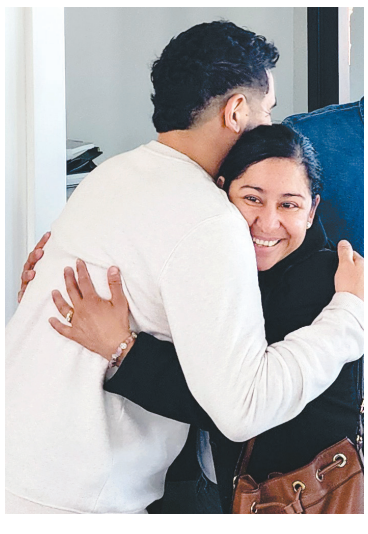
Con't de pg. 1

paramilitares vinculados al gobierno comenzaron a aparecerse frente a su casa, tomando fotografías y siguiéndolos como método de intimidación. Lo que comenzó como participación cívica se transformó en una lucha diaria por sobrevivir.

Temiendo la cárcel o algo peor, la familia Arce tomó la difícil decisión de dejar su hogar y todo lo que habían construido. Huyeron al norte, pasando Centroamérica, enfrentando peligro a cada paso, hasta llegar a los Estados Unidos a finales de 2021. Con la ayuda del Centro para Inmigrantes y Refugiados del Suroeste de Detroit (SWIRC), presentaron su solicitud de asilo ante un juez de inmigración en Detroit.

Este otoño, su larga espera terminó con una victoria: el tribunal otorgó asilo a la familia Arce, reconociendo la persecución que sufrieron por sus convicciones políticas y su apoyo a la democracia en Nicaragua. Ahora viven seguros en Michigan, reconstruyendo sus vidas en paz, trabajando, estudiando y colaborando con la comunidad que los recibió.

Al reflexionar sobre el caso, el Director Ejecutivo y Abogado Principal de SWIRC, Kevin Piecuch, compartió: "Cuando nuestros clientes trajeron un almuerzo casero para agradecer al equipo, recordé por qué hacemos este trabajo. Estos momentos de conexión humana, ver a las familias seguras, libres y agradecidas, son las verdaderas recompensas que nos impulsan a seguir luchando por la justicia cada día."



El viaje de la familia Arce es un testimonio de valentía, resiliencia y compasión. En SWIRC, nos sentimos honrados de haberlos acompañado en su camino de la persecución a la libertad.

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center Celebrates 10 Years of Service and 25,000+ Clients Served

The Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center (SWIRC) is marking its 10-year anniversary this fall, commemorating a decade of dedicated service to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Southeast Michigan. Since its founding in 2015, SWIRC has grown to become the largest provider of free and low-cost legal services in the Detroit area, with locations in Detroit's Southwest neighborhood, on the Eastside of Detroit, and in Pontiac.

Over the past decade, SWIRC has supported more than 25,000 clients—people who came to its doors seeking answers, justice, and belonging. Whether assisting a parent fighting for their child's future, an entrepreneur starting a small business, or a client receiving the relief of citizenship, each story has shaped SWIRC's mission to ensure that justice does not depend on how much money one has, and that immigrants are welcomed into their communities.

"Each person who walks through our doors carries dreams and challenges," says Executive Director Kevin Piecuch. "To have served 25,000 clients since 2015 means 25,000 steps toward justice, safety, and belonging. We're proud of what has been accomplished—but even more excited about what's ahead."

As SWIRC marks its 10-year anniversary, the Center is launching new initiatives designed to expand its reach, strengthen community partnerships, and invite broader participation in its mission.

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center

An AI-generated representation of clients receiving immigration/refugee services

Launch of the 10-Year Anniversary 10 x 25k Drive

To fuel its next decade of impact and celebrate 25k clients in 10 years, SWIRC has launched a year-end "10 x 25k Drive" to raise $250,000 by December 31, 2025. Funds will expand free and low-cost legal services for immigrants and refugees across Southeast Michigan. Donations can be made at detimmigrantcenter.com/donate.

Expanded partnerships and services

SWIRC is inviting business and community partners to join its mission of expanding access to justice. Through collaborative initiatives, the Center continues to broaden its legal services — including immigration, family law, employment, and probate matters — to meet Southeast Michigan's growing community needs.

Volunteer engagement

The Center continues to invite attorneys, legal students, translators, and researchers to join its mission and ensure that no one is turned away for inability to pay. Volunteers can sign up at detimmigrantcenter.com/volunteer.

"To our clients, volunteers, staff and supporters—thank you for being part of this journey," added Piecuch. "We are looking ahead to the next 25,000 stories and beyond."

About Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center (SWIRC)

Founded in 2015, SWIRC is the largest center in Southeast Michigan providing free and low-cost legal services to immigrants and refugees—regardless of their resources. Located in Detroit's Southwest neighborhood, with additional legal centers in Pontiac and Detroit's Eastside, SWIRC is committed to a vision of Southeast Michigan where justice is accessible to all and immigrants are embraced.

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Address & Contact

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center
17375 Harper Ave., Suite 24124
Detroit, MI 48224
Phone: 313-288-9904
https://detimmigrantcenter.com

The Five Toughest Hurdles for Immigrants in Detroit, and the Support That Makes a Difference

In Detroit and across the country, immigrants are facing a harsher reality than ever before. At SWIRC, our mission is to support and empower the people who make our city vibrant. Our clients are those striving to build new lives amid daunting challenges. Here are the five most pressing concerns affecting them and their families this year:

1. Living Under the Threat of Deportation

Recently, we've witnessed a surge in detentions and deportations, sometimes even for minor paperwork issues or administrative errors. Our SWIRC clients face the threat of removal as a constant presence. The fear of being taken from loved ones or losing stability hangs over thousands, making every day uncertain.

2. Losing Critical Legal Protections

Many long-time Detroit residents with DACA, TPS, or humanitarian visa status are watching these programs vanish or tighten, sometimes at a moment's notice. For those who came here as children or fled danger abroad, this uncertainty disrupts education, jobs, and futures every single day.

3. Workplace Scrutiny and Loss of Employment

Long delays at USCIS in producing Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) mean that many immigrants face job losses because their existing cards are expired. Compounding problems is the recent change in policy that considered expired EADs valid for those who had applied for new cards. No longer. People can no longer work legally whose EADs are expired, even though delays in obtaining new cards is beyond their control. This policy change will have catastrophic results for many low-income families.

4. Difficulty Accessing Services and Benefits

SWIRC regularly helps families who avoid seeking healthcare, food support, or housing—even when eligible—because using public programs might jeopardize their immigration status. The "public charge" law has led to heartbreaking choices between basic needs and survival in the U.S.

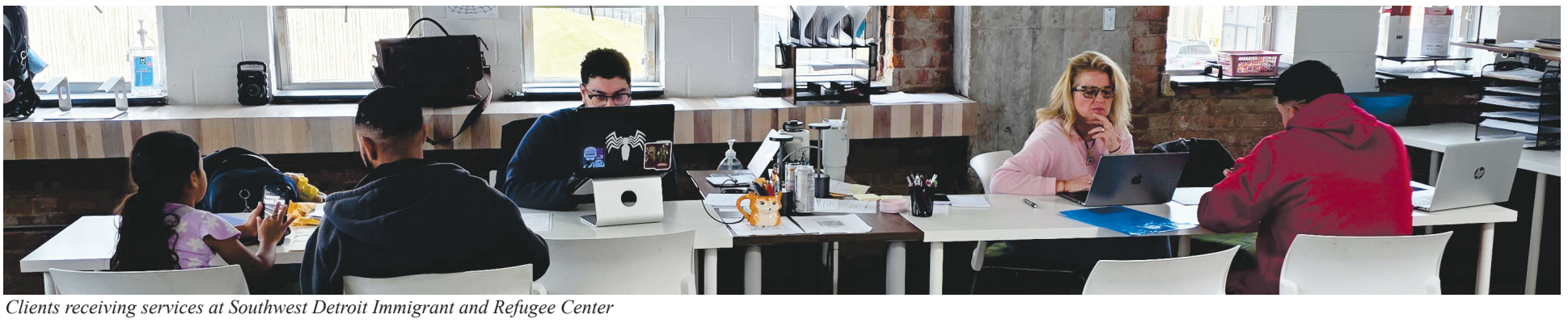
5. Waiting in Endless Lines for Justice

The immigration court system is overflowing, turning months into years for families seeking protection, citizenship, or to simply reunite. SWIRC lawyers continue to fight for Detroiters caught in this backlog, but frustration and fear grow each day.

Hope and Support in Southwest Detroit

Despite these obstacles, hope continues to thrive at SWIRC. Our team, along with passionate volunteers and community allies, stands with immigrants through every step—providing legal help, guidance, and a place to be heard. Our work is more essential than ever, and together, we can build a more welcoming Detroit.

For those worried about what's next, know that SWIRC is here. If you or someone you know needs help, reach out. We fight for your story, your rights, and your future. Because every immigrant deserves a fair chance and a safe place to call home.



Clients receiving services at Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center

The Arce Family's Journey From Fear to Freedom

Continued from page 1

appear outside their home, photographing and following them as a form of intimidation. What started as civic participation soon became a daily fight for survival.

Fearing imprisonment or worse, the Arce family made the painful decision to leave their home and everything they had built. They traveled north through Central America, facing danger at every step, before seeking safety in the United States at the end of 2021. With help from the Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center (SWIRC), they presented their case for asylum before a Detroit Immigration Judge.

This fall, their long wait finally ended in victory when the court granted the Arce family asylum, recognizing the persecution they endured for their political beliefs and their support for democracy in Nicaragua. Now living safely in Michigan, they are rebuilding their lives in peace, working, studying, and giving back to the community that welcomed them.

Reflecting on the case, SWIRC Executive Director and Principal Attorney Kevin Piecuch shared: "When our clients brought homemade lunch for the staff to thank us, it reminded us why we do this work. These moments of human connection, seeing families safe, free, and grateful, are the real rewards that keep us fighting for justice every day."

The Arce family's journey is a testament to courage, resilience, and the power of compassion. At SWIRC, we are honored to have walked beside them on the path from fear to freedom.

Lions Defeat Giants in Overtime

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

The Detroit Lions (7-4) defeated the New York Giants (2-10), in overtime 34 - 27.

The Detroit Lions were behind the entire game and tied the game late in the 4th quarter with Jake Bates kicking a 59 yard field goal, to send it to overtime.

In the first play of overtime, Jahmyr Gibbs, runs and scores a 69 yard touchdown.

The Lions host the Green Bay Packers, this Thanksgiving Thursday, Thursday, November 27th at 1:00 pm (FOX), then the Dallas Cowboys, for Thursday Night Football (TNF), Thursday, December 4th at 8:15 pm (PRIME VIDEO).

Photos are from Lions vs. Giants game

Jake Bates (#39) celebrates his game-tying field gold with Lions teammates

Aidan Hutchinson (#91) sacks Jameis Winston (#19) to seal the game, giving the Detroit Lions a 34-27 overtime victory over the New York Giants

Amon-Ra St. Brown (#14) celebrates a touchdown reception with a salsa dance.
St. Brown had 9 receptions for 149 yards with 1 TD

Jahymyr Gibbs (#0) catches a Jared Goff pass and dives across the pylon for a touchdown.
Gibbs had 15 carries for 219 yards with 2 TDs, and 11 receptions for 45 yards with 1 TD

Jameis Winston (#19) and Jared Goff (#16) talk after the game.
Winston was 18 for 36 for 366 yards with 2 TDs and 1 INT, 4 carries for 13 yards, and 1 reception for 33 yards with 1 TD. Goff was 28 for 42 for 279 yards with 2 TDs and 1 INT

Lions head coach Dan Campbell and Giants (interim) head coach Mike Kafka shake hands after the game

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

A Student Embarrasses His Teacher

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Ahead of the USA's final international of 2025 a story circulated in the media about a young Mauricio Pochettino being recruited by Uruguay's current manager Marcelo Bielsa to play for him at Newell's Old Boys in Argentina. Pochettino acknowledged their close relationship by referring to Bielsa as his "football father" and showed his mentor a great deal of respect.

Once the USA's match against Uruguay kicked off, that relationship was cast aside for a couple of hours. Pochettino's current team, missing a number of well known players, proceeded to give a lesson to their supposedly superior guests. Having preached team unity, proper attitude, hunger, and drive to his players during the three autumn international windows, he watched his team deliver a performance with all of those characteristics.

Pochettino made nine changes to the starting lineup from the team that battled Paraguay three days previously. The 2-1 win over Paraguay went down very well among the fans and observers. That included the fracas near the end that brought both benches together. The players had each other's backs when push came to shove. When the USA stormed out to a 4-0 lead over Uruguay during the first 42 minutes in Tampa, what looked like a decent camp for the USA turned into the perfect finale for what started out as a difficult year.

Uruguay had also made a number of changes to a team that drew 0-0 with Mexico. That drab affair gave no indication of what was coming against the US. Two goals in four minutes put the visitors in a hole they could not escape. Coventry City striker Haji Wright was felled just outside the Uruguayan penalty area after 17 minutes. Sebastien Berhalter lined up to take the free kick and played the ball short to Sergino Dest. Dest teed it up and Berhalter whipped a curling shot past Christopher Fiermarin and into the side-netting.

The shock of that opener had barely worn off when Alex Freeman doubled the lead from a Berhalter corner. The son of the former US national team boss has now outscored his father in international play. Berhalter wasn't the only son to surpass his father during this camp. Freeman's father, NFL Hall of Famer Antonio Freeman never won a game in Tampa during his illustrious career. The MLS Young Player of the Year emphatically surpassed his father by adding a second goal. Shortly thereafter, Tim Tillman, younger brother of fellow US international Malik, delivered a crunching tackle to turn the ball over. Auston Trusty slipped a pass through to the charging Freeman, who danced through three defenders and finished like a striker to make it 3-0 after 31 minutes.

Fiermarin looked shellshocked and the rest of his team dazed. The onslaught continued. Even though Uruguay had a few half chances and one thunderous shot off the crossbar, it was clear that it would not be their night. Diego Luna put the Americans into overdrive when he finished off a stylish move that started with Trusty picking out and overlapping run from John Tolkin. Tolkin dragged his pass back towards the penalty spot for Luna to pass the ball into the goal. That was game over after 42 minutes.

Uruguay did score a spectacular consolation goal just before halftime when Giorgian de Arrascaeta rose up to hit a bicycle kick past Matt Freese. Pochettino left the field at halftime raging about his team losing concentration. He has demanded better from his players and they know it. They returned for the second half and took the pace out of the game, especially after Uruguay captain Rodrigo Betancur received two yellow cards in fifteen minutes. The US capped the scoring against ten men when Gio Reyna, who now also has more international goals than his dad, picked out Tanner Tessman with a lovely cross that the Olympique Lyon midfielder headed into the net.

Four goal wins don't happen often at the higher levels of international football. The US hasn't beaten a South American team by four goals since a game against Bolivia in 2016. It is their third victory in ten attempts against Uruguay and first win over the two-time World Cup winners since 2002. Looking back at the fall friendly games, the USA finished with four wins, one loss, and a draw against six teams who have qualified for the World Cup. Their performances improved in each game. The loss came in the first match of the fall against Japan. These last two wins against respected South American nations will grab some headlines.

Marcelo Bielsa did not enjoy the match against his protégé. In his post match comments, he said he was ashamed of the performance and the result. Many pundits reminded American audiences about his disparaging remarks on Major League Soccer. Five current and four former MLS players started the game for the USA and put Uruguay to the sword.

The next major event for the US national team will be the World Cup draw on December 5 in Washington DC. The US already knows they will be in Pot 1 and will play their first and third group matches in Los Angeles with the second game in Seattle. Their opponents will become known in less than two weeks, unless they draw a team still involved in either the European or Intercontinental Playoffs. The vibe has turned since the Nations League debacle in March and the internal issues during the Gold Cup in June. Mauricio Pochettino has his team playing some inspired ball and the players competing for roster spots. That should bring out the best in them.

Boxing at Fox Theatre on Saturday, December 20th

313-580-0672

NOW HIRING

Independent, mission-driven Hispanic media company seeks part-time (15–20 hrs/week) Advertising & Sales Manager.

NOW HIRING ADVERTISING & SALES MANAGER

Lead digital, print, and sponsorship revenue efforts, build advertiser relationships, and identify new monetization opportunities. Must be bilingual (English/Spanish) with 3+ years in media sales or business development and proven revenue success.

- ☑ Flexible hybrid/remote schedule
- ☑ Professional growth opportunities.

Base pay commensurate with experience plus performance-based 15–30% commission

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Apply by Nov. 30 with résumé to info@elcentralmedia.com, Attn: Managing Editor.
Questions during regular business hours: 313-580-0672.

SE BUSCA PERSONAL / NOW HIRING

313-580-0672

¡SE BUSCAN CONDUCTORES DE ENTREGA DE PERIÓDICOS!

NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS!

Rutas semanales en / Weekly routes in Southwest Detroit, Downriver, and North Oakland/Macomb.

- ☑ *Pago competitivo, reembolso por millaje*
- ☑ *Incentivos por crecimiento de rutas*
- ☑ *Competitive pay, mileage reimbursement*
- ☑ *Route growth incentives*

¡Únete al equipo de medios bilingüe más grande de Michigan que ofrece las noticias más locales! / Join Michigan's largest bilingual media team delivering the most local news!
Call or text/Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Robert 313-580-0672

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

PUENTE INTERNACIONAL GORDIE HOWE
REUNIONES PÚBLICAS DE INFORMACIÓN

EL PROYECTO
El proyecto del Puente Internacional Gordie Howe entre Windsor, Ontario y Detroit, Michigan, ayudará a mover bienes y personas de manera más eficiente en este importante portal comercial. Gestionado por Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), y en colaboración con el Estado de Michigan, el proyecto se está llevando a cabo utilizando un modelo de asociación público-privada, conforme al cual Bridging North America diseñará, construirá, financiará, operará y dará mantenimiento al puente.

PARTICIPACIÓN DEL PÚBLICO
Le invitamos a asistir a reuniones comunitarias el miércoles 3 de diciembre de 2025. Acompáñenos para conocer a los representantes del proyecto, obtener los últimos avances sobre el diseño y la construcción, así como los avances en la implementación del Plan de Beneficios para la comunidad del proyecto.

Las reuniones son en formato de puertas abiertas, con presentaciones programadas para las 3:30 p.m. y 5:15 p.m.

REUNIONES PÚBLICAS DE INFORMACIÓN
OFICINA COMUNITARIA DE SOUTHWEST DETROIT
7744 WEST VERNOR HIGHWAY, DETROIT
3 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2025
3:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN
@GordieHoweBrg
YouTube.com/GordieHoweBridge
@GordieHoweBridge
@gordiehowebrg
1-844-322-1773
WDBA-APWD
info@wdbridgecom
GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com

PONT INTERNATIONAL Gordie Howe INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

Diles que lo Viste en *EL CENTRAL*

Tell them you saw it in *EL CENTRAL*

Service Directory / Directorio de Servicios

SONNENBERG
*HARDWARE & LUMBER
*DRYWALL *ELECTRIC
* PLUMBING
*WINDOW & SCREEN REPAIR
*FURNACE & FURNACE PARTS
2302 JUNCTION - DETROIT
(313) 554-4367
Hablamos Español

JUNCTION PARTY STORE
HOME OF THE COLDEST BEER IN THE SOUTHWEST
SIGUE ~ RIA
CERVEZA ~ TORTILLAS
SUAVITEL ~ PINALEN
313.262.6957
3260 Junction, Detroit MI 48210
Specials Every Weekend
Especiales Cada fin de semana

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1 oldest, largest, genuinely local and only bi-lingual Hispanic news. Minority (Hispanic) and woman owned.
Multi-year winner of Jose Marti National Award for excellence in Editorial and Design. Published in Metro Detroit since 1988.

EL CENTRAL informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino/a community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

Eva Garza Dewaelsche – *Publisher/Owner*
Robert Dewaelsche – *Managing Editor*
Dolores Sánchez – *Founder, Publisher Emeritus, Advertising Director*
Michael D. Gutierrez – *Digital Content Manager*
Fernando Ramos-Melendez – *Assistant Editor; Graphic Designer*
Gerald Morgan – *Associate Graphic Designer*
Stephanie Sanchez – *Graphic Design and Digital Specialist*
Dan Graschuck – *Sports Editor, Writer, Photographer*
David Levine – *Sports Writer* • Mike Alberts – *Sports Photographer*
Adam Dewey – *Photographer* • Carmen Elena Luna – *Translator*
Sofia Nava Marron – *Webmaster and Social Media Manager*
Rogelio Landin and Steve Walker – *Political Columnists*
Mariana Ayón RV – *World Cultures*
Ozzie Rivera, William Bowles and Jorge Casarez – *Contributing Writers*
Local Freelance Writing and Photography Team Members

EL CENTRAL is a weekly publication. The deadline for articles and ads is noon, Monday prior to publication. The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Managing Editor.

©2025 EL CENTRAL Hispanic News. All rights reserved.This publication and each part herein is the property of the Publisher and may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Publisher.

HISPANIC OWNED MEDIA CERTIFIED BY HACR NAHP National Association of Hispanic Publications, Inc.

4200 W. Vernor • Detroit, MI 48209 • (313) 580-0672
info@elcentralmedia.com • elcentralads@aol.com
www.elcentralmedia.com

EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:
The Rot at the Top

By Robert Reich

Ten months of this. Enough to make one scream, run stark naked in the streets, mount a revolution.

But we have to play the long game. In that long game, America learns from this catastrophe — and turns those lessons into laws, rules, and norms that prevent this from ever happening again.

Much has been revealed lately, both about Trump and the rot at the top of our system.

Trump's attempted cover-up of his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein has riveted the nation's attention to the moral depravity of many rich and powerful men who raped children, with impunity.

Trump's celebration of the Saudi crown prince who ordered the brutal killing of a Washington Post reporter has shown the moral vacuity of the CEOs who flocked to the White House dinner to honor the prince because they want his investments.

Trump's blatant threats against corporate media whose journalists ask him hard questions and whose comedians ridicule him — and media executives' chickenshit, obsequious responses to those threats — are exposing the dangers of giant media corporations controlling our access to the truth.

Trump's wheeling and dealing with tech company oligarchs are revealing the cozy, incestuous ways wealth and power are concentrating in fewer and fewer hands.

Trump's acceptance of gifts, bribes, payoffs, kickbacks, and perks from those seeking handouts shows how a demagogue cashes in on his power.

His awards of pardons, government contracts, regulatory exemptions, tax subsidies, and lower tariffs to those who bribe him reveal how an authoritarian builds power through favors.

His uses of criminal investigations, tax audits, regulatory enforcement, withholding of government funds, and vicious public smears exhibit how a neofascist punishes opponents.

None of this is entirely new to American politics, but it has never happened on this scale — or with this much shameless abandon.

Most average working Americans abide by laws and norms. Most are kind and decent.

But there is growing rot at the top of our system. And its stench can no longer be ignored.

It's the essence of Trump and his regime. It's also, sadly, the moral squalor of too many rich and powerful Americans.

Playing the long game requires that the rest of us learn from this revolting era — learn why the wealthy and powerful must be constrained and learn how to constrain them.

Learn what integrity requires at the highest reaches of our government, in the c-suites of our corporations, in our universities, law firms, nonprofits, and media.

Learn that the most significant divide in America is not between the left and the right but between the bottom and the top — between the vast majority of Americans without wealth or power, and a tiny minority holding most all of it.

And resolve to prevent such moral rot from ever again taking over our nation.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

Opinión de un Invitado:
La podredumbre en la cima

Por Robert Reich

Diez meses de esto. Suficiente para hacer gritar, correr desnudo por las calles, organizar una revolución.

Pero tenemos que apostar a largo plazo. En ese largo plazo, Estados Unidos aprende de esta catástrofe y convierte esas lecciones en leyes, reglas y normas que evitan que esto vuelva a suceder.

Últimamente se ha revelado mucho, tanto sobre Trump como sobre la corrupción en la cúpula de nuestro sistema.

El intento de Trump de encubrir su relación con Jeffrey Epstein ha centrado la atención del país en la depravación moral de muchos hombres ricos y poderosos que violaron a niños con impunidad.

La celebración de Trump del príncipe heredero saudí que ordenó el brutal asesinato de un reportero del Washington Post ha demostrado la inmoralidad de los directores ejecutivos que acudieron en masa a la cena de la Casa Blanca para honrar al príncipe porque quieren sus inversiones.

Las flagrantes amenazas de Trump contra los medios corporativos, cuyos periodistas le plantean preguntas difíciles y cuyos comediantes lo ridiculizan, así como las respuestas cobardes y obsequiosas de los ejecutivos de los medios a dichas amenazas, exponen los peligros de que las grandes corporaciones mediáticas controlen nuestro acceso a la verdad.

Los tejemanejes de Trump con los oligarcas de las empresas tecnológicas revelan las formas acogedoras e incestuosas en que la riqueza y el poder se concentran en cada vez menos manos.

La aceptación por parte de Trump de regalos, sobornos, comisiones ilegales y prebendas de quienes buscan dádivas muestra cómo un demagogo se lucra con su poder.

Sus concesiones de indultos, contratos gubernamentales, exenciones regulatorias, subsidios fiscales y aranceles más bajos a quienes lo sobornan revelan cómo un autoritario construye poder mediante favores.

Su uso de investigaciones criminales, auditorías fiscales, aplicación de regulaciones, retención de fondos gubernamentales y brutales difamaciones públicas demuestran cómo un neofascista castiga a sus oponentes.

Nada de esto es completamente nuevo en la política estadounidense, pero nunca había sucedido a esta escala ni con tanto descaro.

La mayoría de los estadounidenses trabajadores promedio respetan las leyes y las normas. La mayoría son amables y decentes.

Pero hay una creciente podredumbre en la cima de nuestro sistema. Y su hedor ya no puede ignorarse.

Es la esencia de Trump y su régimen. También es, lamentablemente, la miseria moral de demasiados estadounidenses ricos y poderosos.

Jugar a largo plazo requiere que el resto de nosotros aprendamos de esta era repugnante: aprendamos por qué los ricos y poderosos deben ser limitados y cómo limitarlos.

Aprendamos lo que exige la integridad en las altas esferas de nuestro gobierno, en los altos ejecutivos de nuestras corporaciones, en nuestras universidades, bufetes de abogados, organizaciones sin fines de lucro y medios de comunicación.

Aprendan que la división más significativa en Estados Unidos no es entre la izquierda y la derecha, sino entre los de abajo y los de arriba: entre la gran mayoría de estadounidenses sin riqueza ni poder, y una pequeña minoría que lo posee casi todo.

Y decídanse a evitar que esta podredumbre moral vuelva a apoderarse de nuestra nación.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

¿Tienes una opinión contraria? Escríbenos a info@elcentralmedia.com

Suscríbase a EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
¡Se lo enviaremos semanalmente a su correo electrónico! Escanee el código QR para recibir este boletín digital.
EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS

Special World's Cultures

Guatemala

The Burning of the Devil

The Burning of the Devil is one of Guatemala's most important national festivities and is celebrated on December 7th every year. While its exact origins are unknown, it is believed to date back to the colonial period. The Burning of the Devil originated as a prelude to the celebration of the birth of the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

This is of great importance to the Catholic Church, as she was born without the original sin inherited from Eve. The celebrations for the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception take place on December 8th, and were formerly celebrated with the lighting of bonfires and lanterns throughout the city, in what was the old Hermitage, now Guatemala City.

Some authors also say that the festival originated as part of the preparations for Christmas, when families cleaned and prepared their homes, removing everything that was no longer useful as a symbol of the devil's defeat with the birth of Jesus Christ.

The festival requires cleaning the homes; that is, tidying the house and corners, throwing away trash, old things, things that are no longer useful and that have accumulated during the year. All of this is done to achieve purification, since it is said that the devil hides among these things, and for this reason, they must not only be removed but also burned, to make room for good, such as the birth and arrival of the baby Jesus as the epitome of benevolence.

The Burning of the Devil not only burns the devil, but bonfires are lit throughout the city where piñatas with the

effigy of the devil, molded from wire and covered in papier-mâché or red tissue paper, are burned. One of the most important parts of the Burning of the Devil celebration is the reading of the Devil's Testament, in which everything he did is recounted.

The Burning of the Devil takes place after six in the evening with the procession of the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception. It is said that the tradition of making piñatas with images of the devil began around 1960, since prior to this, bonfires were only used to celebrate the Virgin. However, with the religion being prohibited in the 19th century, the tradition gradually transformed into what is now the Burning of the Devil as a symbol of evil.

The Burning of the Devil festival begins at noon with the burning of fireworks to summon the community. Later, at 3:00 pm, the arrival of the devil is usually celebrated, and at 5:45 pm, the reading of the Devil's Testament takes place, in which he mentions the parts of his body and why they will be burned. At six o'clock sharp, the Burning of the Devil begins, followed by a celebration with live music, as a celebratory concert is usually held. The main celebration takes place in the Barrio de la Concepción, in Antigua, the capital of Guatemala.

Although the tradition belongs to Guatemala, this practice can be combined with other annual practices, since it goes without saying that every year many people try to take stock in December of everything they achieved and left behind during the year that is ending.

In this way, we can prepare ourselves in these days for 2026 by letting go of everything that was no longer part of our lives in these months, to start a new year with more space not only in our homes, but also in our lives and within ourselves.

The Burning of the Devil festival is not the only symbol of burning away evil, malevolence, and the diabolical within the Spanish-speaking societies of the continent. In countries like Mexico, the parallel is carried out on December 31st with the Burning of the Old Year, an old man who will give way to the birth of the New Year.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Guatemala

La Quema del Diablo

La Quema del Diablo es una de las festividades guatemaltecas más importantes a nivel nacional y se celebra el 7 de diciembre de cada año aunque no se sabe exactamente el año en que se inició, pero se sabe que viene del periodo colonial.

La Quema del Diablo se dio como preámbulo a la celebración del nacimiento de la Virgen Inmaculada María, pues recordemos que esto para la iglesia católica tiene gran importancia, pues ella nació sin el pecado original heredado por Eva. Los festejos de la Virgen de la Inmaculada Concepción son el día 8 de diciembre que anteriormente se festejaba con el encendimiento de luminarias y fogatas por toda la ciudad de lo que era la antigua Ermita, actual ciudad Guatemala.

Algunos autores dicen también, que la festividad tuvo origen como parte de los preparativos para las fechas navideñas cuando las familias limpiaban y preparaban sus casas sacando todo aquello que no sirviera como símbolo del vencimiento del diablo con el nacimiento de Jesucristo

La festividad requiere la limpieza de los hogares, es decir: aseo del hogar y rincones, tira de basura, cosas viejas, cosas que no sirven y que se han acumulado durante el año, todo esto en aras de llevar a la purificación, pues se dice que el diablo se esconde entre estas cosas y por esa razón no sólo se deben sacar, sino también quemar, para así dar espacio para lo bueno, como es el nacimiento y llegada del niño Jesús como máxima de lo benevolente.

La Quema del Diablo no sólo quema al diablo, sino que las fogatas se

encienden por toda la ciudad donde se quemará piñatas con la efigie-figura del diablo moldeadas con alambre y cubiertas de papel maché o papel de china rojo.

Una de las partes más importantes de la celebración de la Quema del Diablo es la lectura del Testamento del Diablo, en el cual se da lectura de todo lo que hizo.,

La Quema del Diablo se hace después de las seis de la tarde con la procesión de la Virgen de la Inmaculada Concepción. Se dice que fue hasta mediados del siglo XIX, por ahí de 1960 cuando la realización de las piñatas con imágenes del diablo se dio inicio, puesto que previo a esto, las fogatas sólo eran para festejar a la virgen, no obstante, con las prohibiciones religiosas la tradición fue transmutándose hasta lo que es la Quema del Diablo como símbolo de lo malo.

La fiesta de la Quema del Diablo se da inicio desde medio día con la quema de pólvoras para el llamamiento de la comunidad. Posteriormente, a las 3:00 pm sueles darse la llegada del diablo y a las 5:45 pm se lleva a cabo la lectura del Testamento del Diablo, donde éste menciona las partes de su cuerpo y porqué las van a quemar. A las seis en punto se inicia con la Quema del Diablo para posteriormente dar pie a la celebración con música en vivo, pues, comúnmente se lleva a cabo un concierto de festejo. La celebración principal se lleva a cabo en el Barrio de la Concepción, en Antigua, capital de Guatemala.

Aunque la tradición pertenece a Guatemala, esta práctica puede congeniarse con otras prácticas anuales, pues sobra decir que año con año muchas personas procuran en el mes de diciembre hacer un conteo de todo lo que se logró y lo que se dejó atrás durante el año que termina, así, podemos prepararnos en estos días para el 2026 sacando todo aquello que ya no fue parte de nuestras vidas en estos meses, para empezar un año nuevo con más espacio no sólo en nuestros hogares, sino también en nuestras vidas y nuestro interior.

La fiesta de la Quema del Diablo no es el único símbolo de quema de lo malo, maligno y diabólico dentro de las sociedades hispanoparlantes del continente.

En países como México, se lleva a cabo el paralelismo el 31 de diciembre con la Quema del año viejo, un señor anciano que dará pie al nacimiento del Año nuevo.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

Plan DETROIT

Help Plan Detroit's Tomorrow, Today

REGION MEETINGS

The Planning & Development Department invites you to join us for a Region Meeting to learn about where we are in the Master Plan update process and provide **YOUR** input on draft land use recommendations that will shape how Detroit will grow and change over the next 20 years.

Drop in when you can and enjoy some festive fun too!

Seasonal Snacks!
Kids Crafts!
Prizes!

Learn more at plandetroit.com

WESTSIDE
DECEMBER 2, 2025
6:00-8:00 PM
Northwest Activity Center
18100 Meyers Rd.
(Presentation @ 6 & 7 PM)

EASTSIDE
DECEMBER 3, 2025
6:00-8:00 PM
Farwell Recreation Center
2711 Outer Dr. E.
(Presentation @ 6 & 7 PM)

SOUTHWEST
DECEMBER 4, 2025
6:00-8:00 PM
Patton Recreation Center
2301 Woodmere St.
(Presentation @ 6 & 7 PM)

VIRTUAL
DECEMBER 9, 2025
5:30 - 6:30 PM
https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/89879575233
Meeting ID: 898 7957 5233
Passcode: 900187
Call-in#: 312-626-6799

Questions?
detroitmasterplan@detroitmi.gov
313-628-0221

With advance notice of seven calendar days, the City of Detroit will provide interpreter services at public meetings, including language translation and reasonable ADA accomodations. Please contact the Civil Rights, Inclusion, and Opportunity Department at (313) 224-4950, through the TTY number 711, or email crio@detroitmi.gov to schedule these services.

ALLIANCE CATHOLIC CREDIT UNION
AllianceCatholic.com

Préstamo Navideño

con tasas desde
7.99%* APR

Financie hasta $4,000 por un plazo de hasta 12 meses.

Solicite su préstamo hoy.

FORTALECIDOS por la FE | INSPIRADOS por TI

NCUA Federally Insured by NCUA

* La Tasa de Porcentaje Anual (APR, por sus siglas en inglés) se refiere a la tasa de interés anual. La oferta vence el 31 de diciembre de 2025. Plazo de 12 meses. Pago mensual de $86.99 por cada $1,000 financiados. El monto máximo del préstamo es de $4,000. Todas las tasas están sujetas a cambio sin previo aviso. Los préstamos existentes con ACCU no califican para las tasas promocionales. Las tasas publicadas son "desde" y se determinan según su puntaje de crédito. Debe tener al menos 18 años de edad para solicitar. Debe ser socio en buen estado con Alliance Catholic Credit Union. Pueden aplicarse restricciones. Se permite un préstamo navideño por cuenta.

STRANGERS NO LONGER PRESENTS:

INTERFAITH PILGRIMAGE FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

ENOUGH OF MASKS AND INTRUSIONS IN SENSITIVE SPACES, LIKE SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, AND PLACES OF WORSHIP.

LET'S COME TOGETHER TO MEET WITH LAWMAKERS AND POLICE AUTHORITIES TO ADVOCATE FOR WELCOMING THE STRANGER.

INSPIRED ACTION

This year, **Strangers No Longer will bring the spirit of compassion and solidarity to Lansing**. We will visit senators, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, to **call on them to protect our communities and preserve local resources for local needs.**

POSADAS CELEBRATION

Over lunch, we will **celebrate the Latin American tradition of posadas**, commemorating Mary and Joseph's search for a welcoming inn. In our visits to the senators and police offices, we **hope to be greeted with open hearts** so that we may **deliver our message of compassion.**

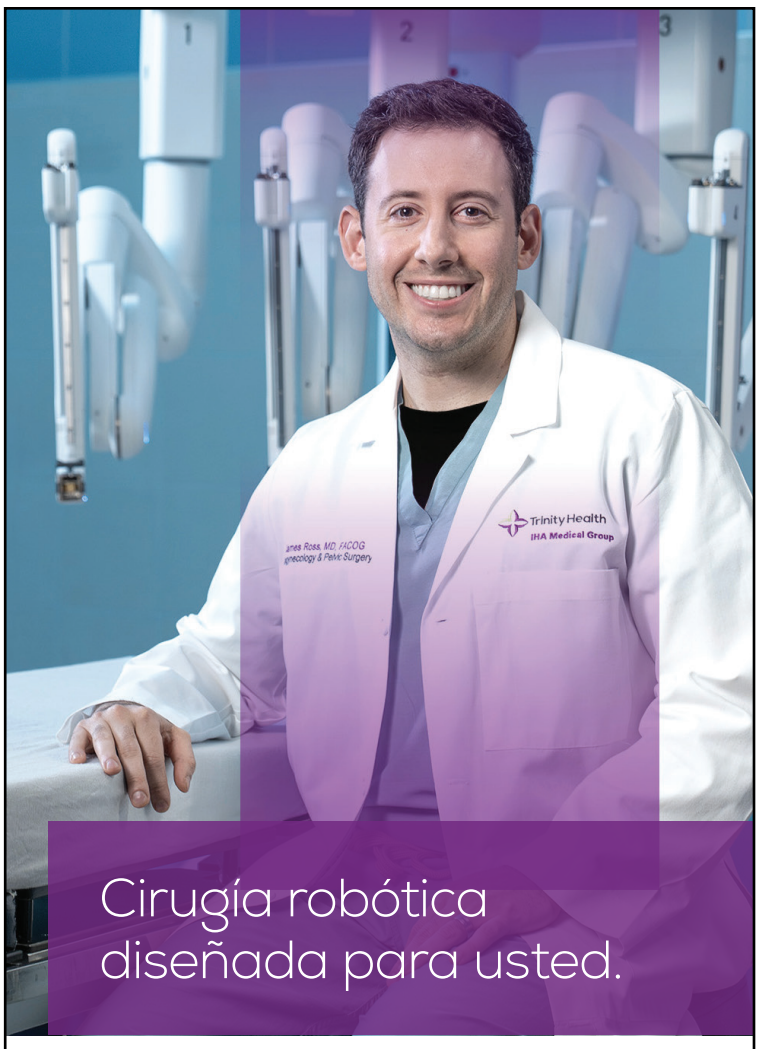
REGISTER TODAY

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025
Central UMC Lansing
9 AM – 2 PM

Buses available in Oak Park and Brighton.

"I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME."
— MATTHEW 25:35

For more information, contact Odalis Perales at perales.o@strangersnolonger.org



En Trinity Health, hacemos su cirugía más fácil. Nuestros médicos utlizan herramientas robóticas para realizar cirugías precisas. Esto implica incisiones más pequeñas, menos dolor y curación más rápida. Las cicatrices pequeñas pueden ayudarle a tener más confianza tras la cirugía. Desde la atención coronaria y el reemplazo de articulaciones hasta la atención del cáncer, la salud femenina y la cirugía general, marcamos el paso en Michigan.

¿La cirugía robótica es la opción para usted? Conozca más hoy.
TrinityHealthMi.org/Robotics

Trinity Health — We See All of You™

Ann Arbor • Chelsea • Livingston • Livonia • Oakland